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of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 16, 2008  
Week Ending: June 15, 2008  
CWP WA-CW2208

## Cool Weather Continues With Snow in Whitman County and First Cutting of Hay Set Back Field Crops

Days suitable for field work were 5.8. Cool and wet weather continued in the eastern grain growing counties. Whitman County reported snow, which caused lodging of newly headed winter wheat. In general, grain crops looked good at the end of the crop week. In spite of the cool and wetter than normal weather, several counties continued to lag in overall moisture. The first cutting of alfalfa resumed and weevil was a concern. Hay which had been cut was badly damaged by the cold and rain. Christmas tree growers were mowing weeds in plantations while others began applying insecticides for aphid control. On the west side, sweet corn was yellow and chlorotic due to lack of heat and too much rain.

## Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, crews were busy thinning peaches and apples. Cherry fruit harvest began on the early cherry varieties. Other reports indicated several large growers and fruit packers expected to be packing cherries by the close of the crop weather week. Labor appears to be adequate. Grape, summer squash and tomatoes were all in bloom. Hops were doing well on the trellises. Snohomish County reported strawberry and raspberry bloom was tapering off. Pacific County reported weed and insect control for cranberries continued.

## Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 12% poor, 34% fair, 42% good and 8% excellent. On the east side, range and pasture conditions improved due to rain and warmer temperatures. Hay supplies continued tight due to recent rains on the first cutting of hay. Stevens County reported cattle producers were contemplating reducing herds in anticipation of increasing hay prices. Pacific County reported shellfish growers continued oyster and clam harvest activities as well as early season planting operations.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.8
Last Week	4.9

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	18	72	6
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	19	76	3
Subsoil	7	33	60	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	22	73	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	95	5
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	92	1
Hay & Roughage	19	37	42	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Emerged	99	98	100	100
Spring Wheat Headed	21	7	42	46
Winter Wheat Headed	74	59	86	89
Barley Emerged	97	96	100	100
Barley Headed	21	4	49	42
Field Corn Planted	96	92	100	99
Field Corn Emerged	85	80	96	92
Potatoes Planted	97	96	100	100
Potatoes Emerged	90	84	99	99
Proc. Green Peas Planted	95	94	98	100
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	NA	NA	6	4
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	66	57	84	86

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	4	13	40	40	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	11	73	14
Spring Wheat Dryland	4	16	55	25	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	4	15	63	18
Barley Dryland	2	10	48	40	0
Barley Irrigated	0	8	52	12	28
Potatoes	0	3	29	68	0
Corn	0	8	46	46	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	9	46	45	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The weather was cold and wet during the week. Some crops, especially in Grays Harbor County, have not been planted due to the wet field conditions. Producers were waiting for drier conditions so they can finish planting their crops.

**Grays Harbor:** Sweet corn fields continued to look chlorotic due to the lack of heat units while cannery pea fields looked great. The unseasonably cool, wet weather was ideal for peas. Christmas tree growers were mowing weeds in plantations while others began applying insecticides for aphid control. Livestock producers continued making haylage. Commercial raspberry growers reported delayed bloom due to the unseasonably cool temperatures. U-Pick vegetable farmers expressed concern over the lateness of the planting season and worried whether pumpkins and other warm season vegetable crops would have time to mature. Home gardeners complained about evening temperatures dropping into the 30s. Plant growth continued to be delayed.

**Pacific:** The weather was cooler than normal during the week. Conditions were dry enough to complete the first cut of hay, but cold conditions limited growth of various crops. Shellfish growers continued oyster and clam harvest activities as well as early season seed planting operations. Weed and insect control for cranberries continued.

**Pierce/South King:** The weather was improving. Crops continued to be about two weeks behind schedule. There was no report of crop damage and no unusual situations to report.

**Mason:** Fir trees were growing great due to the cool temperatures. Precipitation of 0.8 inch was received during the week.

**Skagit:** The high temperature for the week averaged 60 degrees with 0.8 inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU Extension Center in Mount Vernon. Rainy conditions were making it difficult for farmers to get the remainder of

their crops in the ground. The wheat crop was showing signs of stress from the wet weather. Farmers applied fungicides to control rust.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** The weather was cool and rainy all week, but some afternoons were clear enough for field activity. The weekend was sunny and warm. Many crops were either not being planted or only partial fields were planted due to wet conditions. Some spinach seed fields were drastically affected.

**Snohomish/North King:** The weather was cool and wet during the first half of the week. Hay supplies were short and many cuttings were ruined by rain. Tree fruits were sizing up despite the cool weather. Strawberries were ripening, and raspberry blossoming was winding down. Pasture growth was excellent.

**Thurston:** Unseasonably cool temperatures with evening temperatures dropping into the 30s continued to delay crop development including strawberry harvest. Heavy and frequent rain showers the first part of the week limited field cultivation and resulted in prolific weed infestations on organic vegetable farms. Turfgrass growers continued mowing and fertilizing fields. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticides for aphids on Noble and Shasta fir. Livestock producers continued making haylage since the weather prevented curing of traditional hay. Commercial blueberry growers reported delayed bloom due to the cool weather. Home gardeners complained about chlorotic leaves on corn and other warm season vegetable crops due to the lack of heat units.

**Whatcom:** Daytime temperatures averaged 52 degrees. Drier weather followed an inch of rain early in the week which allowed fields to dry out enough for cultivation. Strawberry producers reported molding berries. Some of the planted corn was drowned due to this month's wet conditions. Producers were busily putting up their second cutting of silage.

## Central

**Douglas/Chelan:** All crops continued to be about ten days behind normal maturity for this time of the year. Late variety apples could be in jeopardy later this year because of this. The cooler than normal spring has kept winter wheat from suffering serious damage due to lack of moisture. Producers were concerned that the hot weather could cause serious production losses. Pears were experiencing a higher than normal 'June drop' which will lighten the crop. Apple sizes were expected to be down because of the cold spring. Cherry producers were realizing the extent of their losses due to the freezing temperatures earlier this year. Several producers in higher elevations were reporting as much as a 60 percent loss. Cherry growers from Wenatchee north were reporting normal crops because they did not experience the freezing temperatures earlier this spring.

**Kittitas:** Cool conditions continued. Significant acreage of sweet corn was planted late and was just coming up. Some tame hay was cut during the week, but most commercial timothy growers were waiting for additional growth. Rangeland forages were mostly beyond the boot stage and have open seed heads now; some cool, wet slopes still had late bunchgrasses in the boot. It has been a good year for production with late moisture, although growth occurred later than many would have preferred.

**Klickitat:** Warm weather hit on Thursday and continued through the end of the week with daytime temperatures in the 70s and overnight lows in the 40s. Hay cutting and turning was done in earnest as agricultural producers

played catch up after a long, cold transition to summer. Stands of alfalfa were fair to poor, and barley hay looked good. Hay bales polka-dotted a few fields by Sunday. Early cherries such as Brook's variety were harvested. Roadside fruit stands opened up for sales of cherries and cut flowers.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The wheat was coming along fine. Most of the hay was cut and about half of the hay was baled. The weather was nice and helped the crops.

**Okanogan:** Like much of the state, we had snow followed by warm, sunny weather during the week. The first cutting of hay was just beginning to go strong thanks to the great weather.

**Yakima:** Temperatures were cool at the beginning of the week with nighttime lows in the 30s. As the weekend approached the temperature warmed up with daytime highs in the mid-80s. Fruit thinning crews were in peach and apple orchards. Cherry fruit harvest began on the early cherry varieties like Chelan. Grapes, summer squash, and tomatoes were in the bloom stage. Hops were about three quarters of the way up the trellises.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from ten degrees below normal to five degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain early in the week was beneficial to crops and rangeland. However, the rain was too late for the lower elevation rangeland and for crops that were dried up a couple of months ago.

**Ferry:** Sunny, warm weather was finally causing growth of range grasses and hay crops.

**Ferry (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Alfalfa hay producers were busy cutting and putting up hay. The hay season was about two weeks later than normal due to the cold spring.

**Lincoln:** The temperature dropped to 36 degrees, but no snow fell. The dry, cool weather continued holding off the inevitable drought impacts on the winter wheat. The spring wheat and barley will also begin to suffer. There were several rain showers during the week but ten minutes after they passed the 50 mph winds dried everything up.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature during the week was 74 degrees and the low was 28 degrees with 1.7 inches of precipitation. The ground was still too cool for seeds to germinate. Alfalfa was still in the process of being planted. Livestock were doing well on green pastures. Pastures were growing fast with the wet weather and warmer days though temperatures dipped to freezing at night.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Thundershowers on Wednesday produced significant rainfall in parts of Spokane and Pend Oreille Counties. The northern part of Spokane County and the valley got heavy rain and hail which damaged winter and spring crops. The first cutting of hay will begin

whenever the ground dries out. Grass growth began to look fairly decent for the grazing cattle.

**Stevens:** The warm weather will help the hay crop.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Hay producers began swathing the first cutting mid-week with alfalfa weevils a concern in some fields. Grain producers who had been troubled with too many windy days wrapped up their spraying. Cattle enjoyed the good grass brought on by recent rains, but cattle producers were already concerned about the high price of hay for next winter. Many area producers were talking of reducing their cattle herds.

**Walla Walla:** The rain ended which saved some grain crops. Grain crops generally looked pretty good. The first cutting of hay resumed, though downed hay was damaged quite a bit. Range and pastures perked up with the warmer weather.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Unusually cool weather early in the week brought snow to the higher elevations. By Thursday the weather warmed up with more normal temperatures by the end of the week.

**Whitman:** Snow in June came to the Palouse early in the week. Some areas received between 0.5 and 1.5 inches. The weight of the snow knocked down some recently headed winter wheat stands. By the end of the week temperatures warmed up and returned to normal.

**Weather Statistics**  
**Week of June 9 - 15, 2008**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT DFN	BASE-60F TOT DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	43	66	53	-6	22	-36	0	-7	0.51	+0.09	2	26.05	-6.61	80	158
Everett	43	65	52	-8	19	-46	0	-13	0.30	-0.19	4	31.72	-1.24	96	176
Hoquiam	45	59	52	-6	15	-34	0	-6	0.60	+0.09	4	54.79	-9.49	85	186
Kelso	43	72	55	-5	36	-31	0	-14	0.02	-0.50	2	30.73	-12.47	71	130
Olympia	36	71	52	-7	17	-41	0	-7	0.19	-0.23	2	42.18	-5.63	88	160
Seattle-Tacoma	44	69	54	-7	31	-43	0	-15	0.20	-0.15	2	33.00	-1.65	95	158
Shelton	43	70	54	-8	28	-45	0	-18	0.46	+0.04	2	55.07	-6.88	89	159
Tacoma WA AP	41	69	54	-7	28	-45	0	-14	0.30	-0.12	2	30.89	-6.43	83	145
Vancouver WA	45	75	58	-3	58	-14	2	-16	0.05	-0.37	2	35.28	-3.34	91	153
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	38	82	60	-3	70	-13	18	-8	0.00	-0.14	0	6.50	-1.57	81	63
Omak AP	37	81	59	-3	65	-13	11	-13	0.74	+0.40	1	7.25	-5.53	57	59
Stampede Pass	30	61	44	-5	0	-14	0	+0	1.39	+0.69	4	69.51	-6.91	91	184
Wenatchee	43	84	63	-4	94	-19	31	-15	0.00	-0.14	0	4.31	-3.08	58	44
Yakima AP	41	82	61	-3	82	-17	22	-14	0.00	-0.14	0	5.86	-1.33	82	58
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	36	76	57	-5	50	-27	2	-21	0.19	-0.17	3	15.62	-3.01	84	114
Deer Park	32	77	53	-9	29	-48	0	-23	0.64	+0.36	4	19.40	+3.00	118	131
Republic	37	78	58	+0	56	+0	6	-8	0.63	+0.28	4	10.76	-2.23	83	96
Spokane AP	36	77	56	-7	47	-33	7	-17	0.27	-0.02	4	15.87	+1.29	109	119
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	43	83	63	-5	94	-31	32	-25	0.05	-0.08	1	4.15	-2.33	64	65
Moses Lake	44	83	62	-6	85	-40	23	-34	0.07	-0.06	2	4.21	-2.27	65	64
Quincy	42	81	63	-3	94	-14	28	-15	0.22	+0.08	1	6.61	-0.43	94	66
Ritzville	36	78	54	-8	37	-45	0	-25	0.10	-0.04	2	8.82	-1.38	86	85
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	45	87	65	-6	105	-38	37	-36	0.21	+0.14	1	3.75	-2.12	64	43
Pasco	42	87	63	-6	92	-38	27	-34	0.13	+0.06	1	6.60	-0.21	97	67
Pullman	34	75	54	-5	38	-25	1	-16	0.71	+0.36	4	16.42	-2.40	87	114
Walla Walla Rgn	45	82	62	-6	86	-33	27	-25	0.36	+0.10	1	13.04	-4.69	74	104
Whitman Mission	42	83	60	-6	71	-33	12	-28	0.27	+0.06	2	11.34	-0.99	92	108
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	45	83	60	-7	74	-39	18	-28	0.12	-0.16	3	7.27	-3.19	70	91

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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